GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES AND MINERALS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:145
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
OPENING UP OF DIAMOND MINING SECTOR TO INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES
RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to open up diamond mining sector to international Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the percentage of foreign direct investment and the Government`s stake in the venture;

(c) whether any offer has been received by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) & (b) Foreign equity participation upto 74% is permitted on the automatic route for exploration and mining of diamonds and precious stones. For proposals seeking higher than 74% foreign equity, the cases will have to come to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board for approval.

(c) & (d) At present the Central Government has no plans to participate in any joint venture diamond project.